

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 16-18 are canceled, and claim 19 is amended. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and are only for form. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Claims 16-19 Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16-18 are canceled, and thus the rejection of these claims is now moot.

By this Amendment, claim 19 is amended to remove the recitation "directly," and thus the rejection of this claim is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. Claims 16 and 19

The Office Action rejects claims 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,779,482 to Fukumoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,776,270 to Kumamoto. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 is canceled, and thus the rejection of this claim is now moot.

Claim 19 would not have been rendered obvious by Fukumoto in view of Kumamoto. None of the applied references teach or suggest "the total number of the plurality of second regions being greater than the total number of the at least one first region," as recited in independent claim 19.

The Office Action asserts that Fukumoto includes the first and second print regions as shown in the marked-up copy of Fig. 4(A) of Fukumoto attached to the March 13 Office Action. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based on improper hindsight reasoning. A reconstruction is proper "so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made and does not include knowledge gleaned only from applicant's disclosure." *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 1395, 170 USPQ 209, 212 (CCPA 1971); see, e.g., MPEP §2145(X)A. The Examiner is merely including knowledge from Applicant's disclosure to assert that Fukumoto discloses the total number of plurality of second regions being greater than the total number of the at least one first region. Nowhere does Fukumoto teach or suggest this feature in the specification.

Further, Kumamoto does not remedy the deficiency of Fukumoto discussed above. Kumamoto is only cited by the Office Action for allegedly disclosing a molded member.

Thus, claim 19 is patentable over Fukumoto and Kumamoto. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

B. Claim 17

The Office Action rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukumoto in view of Kumamoto, and further in view of JP 08-324575 to Kanao and U.S. Patent No. 5,740,730 to Thompson, Sr.

Claim 17 is canceled, and thus the rejection of this claim is now moot.

C. Claim 18

The Office Action rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukumoto in view of Kumamoto, and further in view of Kanao. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 is canceled, and thus the rejection of this claim is now moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RBI/aaw

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 15, 2005

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